The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada

Steering our way into the future

The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

The 10th Anniversary Convention

Ottawa Ontario

Saturday the 17th of May 1997

P. Chen

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Conference Coordinator
& Chairperson: Isis Officer

Officiating Chairperson: Tony Ford

Message Centre outside the Oxford Room,
Ramada Hotel & Suites

The Aim of the Conference

Canada has been developed by the efforts of settlers from all over the world. Irrespective of whatever name you choose, be it *multicultural, multiracial, or ethnocultural,* the reality of **Canada** is that it is a country within whose borders are people of many ethnic backgrounds, cultures, religious beliefs, and varying philosophies. It is a country that has been enriched by the little bits and pieces of their original cultures that immigrants have brought to this land. The aim at this conference is to

dispel the myths about immigration

acknowledge the contribution of immigrants from the Caribbean
look back with pride

tool up to move on, and in so doing,

promote an awareness that unity in diversity, full participation, unbiased inclusion, and the capacity to value differences equally are absolutely essential to the social, educational, political, cultural, and continuing economic growth of

Canada.

Conference Coordinator & Chairperson: Isis Officer

Officiating Chairperson: Tony Ford

Message Centre outside the Oxford Room, Ramada Hotel & Suites

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

Schedule at a Glance

Friday May 16	Saturday May 17	Sunday May 18
	Ramada Hotel & Suites (111 Cooper at Cartier) 7:30 – 8:30 A.M. Conference ● Registration	**Ramada Hotel & Suites** (111 Cooper & Cartier) 8:00 A.M. ● Opening Worship Conference Room
	8:45 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. ● Conference	9:00 A.M. ● Annual General Meeting Conference Room
McNabb Community Centre (180 Percy St.) 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. ● Registration	**Radisson Hotel** (100 Kent at Queen) 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. ● Cocktails	
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. ● Reception Sponsored by the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Assoc.	7:30 P.M. ● Banquet& Dance Commonwealth Room	

Conference Coordinator & Chairperson: Isis Officer

Officiating Chairperson: Tony Ford

Message Centre outside the Oxford Room, Ramada Hotel & Suites

A Message from the President

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone participating in the Tenth Annual Conference and General Meeting of The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada,

This forum provides us with an opportunity to foster an atmosphere of mutual trust and acceptance by celebrating not only the Tenth anniversary of the NCJSOC but the success of each member organization as well as this year's host, the Jamaican (Ottawa) Community Association.

It's reassuring to know that member organizations and the NCJSOC are working towards a vision of a better world marked by equality, respect for one another, and harmonious relations.

Congratulations to the team of volunteers and patrons who helped to organize this year's Conference. As in previous years I know this year will be a success.

I applaud the dedication of our members and wish you continued success in future endeavours.

Barry Bonitto
President

1996–1997 NCJSOC EXECUTIVES
President: Barry Bonitto
Senior V P: Miah Bailey
Public Relations Director: Dolli Booth
Vice Presidents:
Cecile Locker (Alberta); Errol Bryan (Manitoba); Olive Steel (Central Ontario); Isis Officer (Northern Ontario); Rev. Owen Burey (Southern Ontario); Patricia Dennison (Quebec); Mavis Palmer (Saskatchewan)

Treasurer:
Patricia Williams
Executive Secretary:
Margaret Tucker
Executive Director:
Nyamme Samuels
Immediate Past President:
Ralph Kirkland

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

A Message from the Conference Chairperson

On behalf of the Planning Committee, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our 10th Anniversary Conference. A special welcome to delegates and guests from other provinces and other parts of Ontario.

I hope that during your stay, you will visit some of our interesting sights and also enjoy the Tulip festival which is unique to Ottawa, our Nation's Capital. I wish you a productive, enjoyable and interesting stay. I hope you will have happy memories of your visit.

Isis Officer

Isis Officer,
V. P. Northern Ontario
Conference Chairperson

Notes:

1996–1997 NCJSOC EXECUTIVES
President: Barry Bonitto
Senior V P. Miah Bailey
Public Relations Director: Dolli Booth
Vice Presidents:
Cecile Locker (Alberta); Errol Bryan (Manitoba); Olive Steel (Central Ontario); Isis Officer (Northern Ontario); Rev. Owen Burey (Southern Ontario); Patricia Dennison (Quebec); Mavis Palmer (Sashatchewn)

Treasurer:
Patricia Williams
Executive Secretary:
Margaret Tucker
Executive Director:
Nyamme Samuels
Immediate Past President:
Ralph Kirkland

A Message from the President Emeritus

Board of Directors and Members of
The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc.

It is my privilege to extend congratulations and best wishes to the Council on your tenth anniversary.

During the ten years of operation you have been fortunate to have dedicated and reliable personnel representing Jamaicans in Canada and you have steadily increased the profile and contributions made by Jamaicans in Canada, in spite of the negative images attributed to us in the media from time to time.

Your record of achievement and service has earned the respect, admiration and confidence of Jamaicans in Canada, and the directors and member organizations have every right to be proud of the contributions you have made and the standards you have set.

Best wishes for a successful conference and may the Council continue to strive for excellence.

Bromley L. Armstrong
President Emeritus

1988-1989 NCJSOC EXECUTIVES

President: Mr. Bromley Armstrong
Senior V P: Mr. Chris Harris
Vice Presidents:
Mr. Ruel Gray; Mrs. Dolli Booth
Mrs. Sylvia Wilson; Mr. Noel Alexander
Mrs. Delicia Crump

Treasurer:
Mr. Miah Bailey
Executive Secretary:
Ms. Erma Collins
Assistant Secretary:
Ms. Margaret Tucker

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

Congratulations

Congratulatory Messages Received

The Right Honourable Jean Crétien,
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Sheila Copps,
Deputy Minister and Minister
of Canadian Heritage

Her Worship, Jacquelin Holzman,
The Mayor of Ottawa

Her Excellency Maxine E. Roberts,
High Commissioner for Jamaica

Marlene Catterall, M.P.,
Deputy Government Whip

The Honourable John Manley, P.C., M.P.
Ministry of Industry

The Honourable Lucienne Robillard, M.P.,
Minister of Citizenship
and Immigration

Conference Coordinator
& Chairperson: Isis Officer

Officiating Chairperson: Tony Ford

Message Centre outside the Oxford Room,
Ramada Hotel & Suites

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Tenth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada, being held in Ottawa.

Your organization plays an important role not only in ensuring that newcomers to Canada feel welcome in their adopted home, but also in preserving and promoting vital cultural links from generation to generation. This gathering will provide you with the ideal forum in which to exchange views and discuss issues of mutual concern with fellow delegates. You will also have the opportunity to review past achievements and set new objectives for the future. I am sure that you will find your participation in this meeting both enjoyable and rewarding.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive session of activities.

Jean Chrétien

OTTAWA
1997

Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Canadian Heritage

Vice-première ministre et
ministre du Patrimoine canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

Greetings to everyone participating in the 10th annual meeting of the **National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc.**

Canada's cultural diversity is not only a source of pride for Canadians in the richness it brings to our society, but is also one of our great advantages as a player on the global stage. Many people, like those in the Jamaican community, have come to Canada in search of a better life and, in doing so, have helped to make Canada the best in the world.

Canadians value the diversity, and appreciate and respect the differences, that enhance our society and endow us with a wide range of knowledge, talents and skills in all areas of endeavour. At the same time, we are united in our support for the country that nurtures us and in our desire to promote the values we share as Canadians living in a democracy.

As Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage, I congratulate your organization for its efforts to meet the needs of the Jamaican community in Canada, and for your contributions to Canadian society as a whole. Best wishes for a productive meeting and for your future success.

Sheila Copps

Sheila Copps

Canada

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Ville d'Ottawa

111, promenade Sussex
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Tél. : (613) 244-5380
Facs. : (613) 244-5379
bh906@freenet.carleton.ca

May 17, 1997

On behalf of the people of Ottawa, it is my great pleasure to extend a personal welcome to everyone who has joined us in Canada's Capital for the *Tenth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada*. Thank you for choosing Ottawa as the site of this special event.

The theme of this year's anniversary meeting is *Caribbean Immigrants: Contributions to the Canadian Mosaic.* In a city that is built upon the hard work and character of people from all over the world, Ottawans of Caribbean descent have prospered and given of themselves in every facet of city life. Whether it be in business, health care, education, neighbourhood development, government, charitable causes or the arts, Ottawa's Caribbean-Canadian community continues to make a unique contribution to the quality of life and spirit of our city.

The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada, celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, can be proud of the role it has played over the years in passing on Caribbean culture and heritage from one generation of Canadians to the next. These efforts help ensure that our country continues to grow as a strong multicultural society -- one that is a model to the world.

Ottawa, Canada's leading centre for high technology research and development, is a clean, green and safe city that offers the joie de vivre and local charm of a small town while providing all the attractions and excitement of a modern, cosmopolitan centre -- and a national capital. We welcome our visitors with a unique brand of friendly Canadian hospitality. During your stay in the nation's capital, I invite you to explore the numerous attractions and amenities we have to offer -- our parks, monuments and museums, our waterways and market places, and most of all, the warmth of our people. May your time with us be a pleasant one, and this Meeting, an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all.

Jacquelin Holzman
Mayor

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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JAMAICA
275 SLATER STREET, SUITE 800
OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA
K1P 5H9

MESSAGE BY H. E. MAXINE E. ROBERTS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JAMAICA TO CANADA

I am pleased to be able to extend to the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada heartiest congratulations on its tenth year of existence and devoted service to Jamaican communities across Canada.

It is fitting that the National Council has chosen to use this decennial milestone to reflect and deliberate on the significant contributions made by the Caribbean immigrant population to the Canadian mosaic. We know that from the time Jamaicans first arrived in this country, their impact on the development of the Canadian society has been overwhelmingly exemplary. Consistent reminders and expressions of encouragement of these accomplishments can serve to foster a greater sense of pride of place among Jamaican-Canadians and inspire hope in our young people as well as for future generations.

The National Council is ideally placed to keep this practice alive as it continues to grow from strength to strength in helping its communities to build not only healthy relationships but a secure environment.

I wish you an instructive and fruitful Convention and Annual General Meeting in the capital city of Ottawa.

H.E. Maxine E. Roberts
High Commissioner for Jamaica
May 5, 1997

Deputy Government Whip

Marlene Catterall
M.P., Ottawa West / députée, Ottawa-Ouest

Whip adjointe du gouvernement

Dear Friends,

It is with great regret that I am not able to participate in the Opening Ceremonies of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada on May 17th. As you may be aware, I have enjoyed participating in many events of the Jamaican community and regret having to miss this one.

Canada celebrates the diversity of our people. Canadians of Jamaican origin and Jamaicans who continue to come to make Canada their home, have contributed richly in music, art and good citizenship. As many of you know, I have a particular appreciation for good Jamaican food!

On behalf of the residents of Ottawa West, I extend my best wishes to the participants of this celebratory meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Marlene Catterall, M.P.
Ottawa West

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OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0A6

Hon. John Manley, P.C., M.P./c.p., député
Ottawa South/Sud

Ms. Isis Officer
Vice-President
National Council of Jamaicans and
Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc.
398 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1W3

Dear Ms. Officer:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the occasion of your Tenth Annual Meeting.

I commend the efforts of The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations. Your organizations have worked diligently to respond to and represent the specific needs of Jamaican-Canadians. You can be proud of your accomplishments.

Again, congratulations on ten years of service to the community.

Yours very truly,

Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

May 13, 1997

National Council of Jamaicans
and Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc.
398 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1W3

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest best wishes to everyone attending this year's Tenth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc. This annual conference is an important opportunity for men and women from the Afro-Caribbean community to get together to share experiences, and to hold frank and open discussions about the opportunities and challenges that face Jamaican Canadians and members of other ethnic minority groups across this country. I know that this is also a welcome chance to renew acquaintances, enjoy the company of old friends and to make new friends.

The theme of the meeting, "Afro-Caribbean Immigrants -- Contributions to the Canadian Mosaic" provides a great deal of latitude for discussion. The first Afro-Caribbean immigrants to this country arrived in Canada literally hundreds of years ago, settling on the east coast during early colonial times. Over the centuries, the Afro-Caribbean community has grown and contributed profoundly to all aspects of life in this country. Caribbean culture and traditions have enriched Canada greatly. This conference provides an opportunity to celebrate the substantial accomplishments of the many men and women whose efforts have helped transform this country into the culturally diverse and open home that we share today.

I commend the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada Inc, for continuing to provide a strong and eloquent voice for Jamaican Canadians and for members of other minority groups across this country. Your efforts to promote cultural diversity and responsible citizenship are an example to us all.

Once again, my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

Lucienne Robillard

Lucienne Robillard

Canada

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

Registration & Reception – Friday Evening, May 16

McNabb Community Centre 180 Percy st

Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

Evening

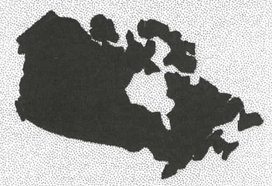
6:00 - 8:00 ● **Registration**
McNabb Community Centre, 180 Percy St.

7:30 - 9:30 ● **Reception**
McNabb Community Centre, 180 Percy St.
Sponsored by the Jamaica-Ottawa Community Assoc

Notes:

Demographic Facts: Canadian Diversity: Some Facts and Figures

Of the total of 28,994,045 Canadians,
22,351,020 were born in Canada (83%),
4,643,025 were born outside Canada (17%).



Source: Unpublished 1991 Census of Canada data
Prepared By: Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning
Citizenship and Canadian Identity, Canadian Heritage

Conference – Saturday Morning, May 17

Ramada Hotel (111 Cooper at Cartier) — Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

Morning

8:45–9:00 National Anthem led Ralph Kirkland
Introductions & Welcome Tony Ford, Officiating Chair

9:00–9:10 Greetings from the President of NCJSO Barry Bonitto

9:10–9:25 Greetings from Federal, Provincial & Municipal Representatives
Greetings from the Jamaican High Commissioner

9:25–9:30 Artistic Presentation Nye Samuels

9:30–10:15 ● **Keynote Presentation:**
Introduction by: Lance Booth, President of the National Institute of Jamaicans-Canadians

> Speaker: **Dr. George Eaton** will be setting the focus on the contribution to Canada of previous and contemporary Caribbean Immigrants and the potential for improvements.

Thanks by: Dr. Fred Pryce

Mid Morning

10:15–10:35 Health Break & Networking

10:35–12:00 ● **Panel Discussion** on Contributions in Specific Fields:
Panel Chair: Ralph Kirkland
Introduction: Patricia Dennison

Fields of:	
Medicine –	Dr. Jerieta Waltin-James
	Dr. Garth Taylor
Legal:	Lloyd Raphael
Community:	Carl Nicholson
Business:	Thomas James
Demographics:	Dr. Leroy Stone, Michael Baffoe
Politics:	Sylvan Williams

Thanks by: Rev. Owen Burey

Noon

12:00–12:40 Lunch: Grace – Sung by Nye Samuels
Luncheon Speech:
Introduction by: Olive Steele
Speaker: Dr. Richard Phidd
Thanks by: Dolli Booth

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

Conference – Saturday Afternoon, May 17

Ramada Hotel (111 Cooper at Cartier) — Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

Afternoon

1:30–2:35 **Steering Our Way into the Future – Concurrent Sessions**

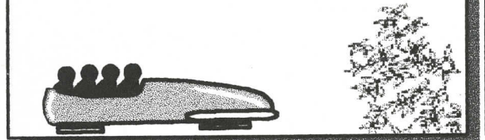
1 Youth Workshop

Waxing Your Own Bobsled

Chair: Adaoma Patterson

Speakers:

Phillip Goodwin
Damian President
Rosemary Griffits



2 Adult Workshop

Tooling up & Moving on

Chair: Ewart Walters
Introduction: Cecile Locker

Speakers:
J. Waltin-James;
G. Taylor; L. Raphael;
C. Nicholson; T. James;
O. Bourne; L. Stone;
M. Baffoe; S. Williams;
R. Phidd.

Thanks by: Mavis Palmer

Mid Afternoon

2:35–2:50 Health & Networking Break

● Plenary Session

	Chair:	Tony Ford
2:50–3:05	Introduction:	Horace Finnekan, President of Keys Eagle Group
3:05–3:15	Musical Interlude:	Sing Song

Presentation:

3:15–3:40 Introduction by: Errol Bryan
Conference reports:
1. Waxing Your Own Bobsled: (10 Minutes)
2. Tooling Up & Moving On; Ewart Walters (10 Minutes)

3:40 **Conclusion:**
Remarks by: Barry Bonitto, President of NCJSO
Closing Song: "Walk good and may good duppy walk wid yu," Nye Samuels

Banquet & Dance – Saturday Evening, May 17

Radisson Hotel
(100 Kent at Queen)

Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

Evening

6:00 – 7:00 Cocktails

7:30 ● Banquet & Dance
Radisson Hotel Commonwealth Room

Masters of Ceremonies: Wes Spencer
Introduction: Isis Officer

Speaker: MaryAnne Chambers, Bank of Nova Scotia

Thanks by: Patricia Williams

Awards/Appreciation Certificates: Barry Bonitto

Notes:

Demographic Facts: Canadian Diversity: Some Facts and Figures

Of the 4,643,025 Canadians (17%) of all Canadians enumerated in the 1991 Census who were born outside Canada: Over half of those born outside Canada were born in Europe (2,530,075) (9.1%) and a quarter born in Asia (1,171,050) (4.2 %)

Source: Unpublished 1991 Census of Canada data
Prepared By: Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning
Citizenship and Canadian Identity, Canadian Heritage

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

Annual Meeting – Sunday Morning, May 18

Ramada Hotel & Suites
(111 Cooper at Cartier.)

Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

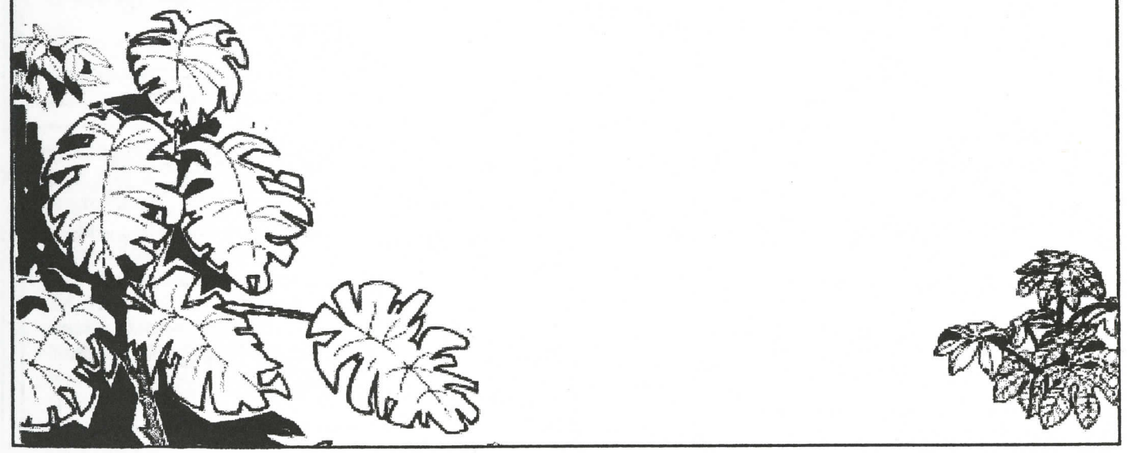
Morning

8:00–9:00 Opening Worship – Conference Room

Officiating Minister: Rev. Owen Burey

9:00 ● Annual General Meeting:

Notes:



Demographic Facts: Canadian Diversity: Some Facts and Figures

Of the 4,643,025 Canadians (17%) of all Canadians enumerated in the 1991 Census who were born outside Canada: Most of the 788,695 (2.8%) persons born in the Americas were born in either the United States (289,615) (1.0%) or the Caribbean (250,305) (0.9%)

Source: Unpublished 1991 Census of Canada data
Prepared By: Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning
Citizenship and Canadian Identity, Canadian Heritage

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Demographic Facts: Canadian Diversity: Some Facts and Figures

Of the 4,643,025 Canadians (17%) of all Canadians enumerated in the 1991 Census who were born outside Canada:
Relatively few persons were born in either Africa (188,600) or Australia, New Zealand and the other Pacific Islands (43,405)

Source: Unpublished 1991 Census of Canada data
Prepared By: Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning
Citizenship and Canadian Identity, Canadian Heritage

The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

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- **National Office,** 55 McCaul St., Box 221,Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2W7 Tel: (416) 593-7650 Info: **Roselyn Thomas**

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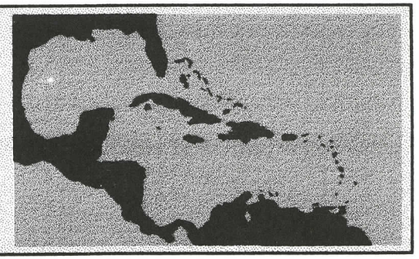

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Countries in and surrounding the Caribbean

Bahamas
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Aruba
Grenada
Saint Vincent &
The Grenadines
Barbados
Saint Lucia
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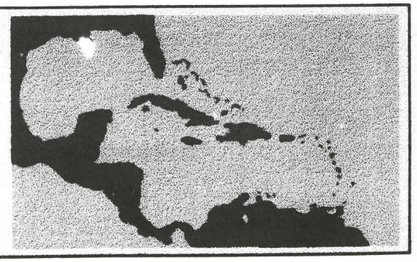
Dominica



The NCJSO 10th Anniversary Convention Ottawa Ontario
The Caribbean Immigrants' Contribution to the Canadian Mosaic

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Notes:

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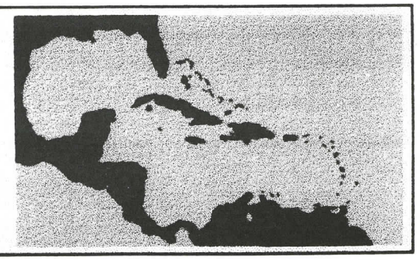


Working Committee & Acknowledgments

Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

The Conference Working Committee:

Isis Officer – Chair
Des Doran
Tony Ford
June Girvan
Thomas James
Dr. Fred Pryce
Nye Samuels

Acknowledgments:

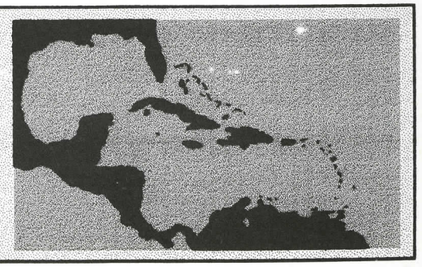
Special mention to

Mutual Group
Key Eagle Group Inc.

Notes:

Caribbean Languages

The people, predominantly of African origin, speak an Afro-European Creole and share a distinctive Caribbean culture. Not all Creole languages are mutually intelligible, but most Creole speakers are also fluent in the dominant European Language.



Anthems

Conference Coordinator & Chair: Isis Officer
Officiating Chair: Tony Ford

O Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

O Canada! Where pines and maples grow,
Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow,
How dear to us thy broad domain,
From East to Western sea!
Thou land of hope for all who toil!
Thou True North strong and free!
God keep our land, glorious and free!
O Canada! we stand on guard for thee,
O Canada! we stand on guard for thee!

Jamaica Land We Love

Eternal Father bless our land,
Guard us with thy mighty hand,
Keep us free from evil powers,
Be our light through countless hours,
To our Leaders, Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above,
Justice, Truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Land we love.

JAMAICA, JAMAICA, JAMAICA, land we love.

Teach us true respect for all,
Stir response to duty's call
Strengthen us the weak to cherish,
Give us vision lest we perish,
Knowledge send us Heavenly Father ,
Grant true wisdom from above,
Justice, Truth be ours for ever,
Jamaica, land we love.

JAMAICA , JAMAICA.
JAMAICA, land we love.

Caribbean Languages
The various class of language are:
a) Germanic Language
(English & EnglishCreole)
b) Romance Languages (Spanish, Papiamento, French, French Creole)
c) "Amerindian" Languages
(Guaymi, Miskito, Cuna etc.)

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Conference Evaluation Sheet

Before you leave the conference, we would appreciate it very much if you could take a couple of minutes of your time to give us your comments on the conference.
Please drop this sheet at the exit.

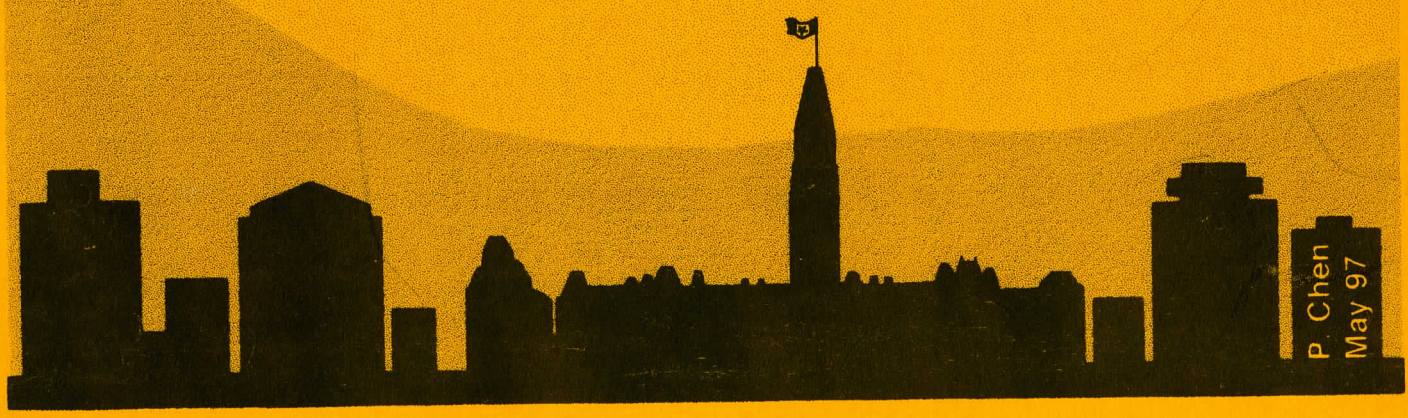
Overall Conference Organization:

Workshop Sessions:

Scope of the Topic:

Future topics that you would like to see covered:

Thank you for you comments:
Conference Coordinator: Isis Officer

The National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution made to this 10th Anniversary Conference by the Department of

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